(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Finance Ministry has also refused to grant the amount of Licence fee received from the Companies and service charges on the phones for village phone services during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance has provided Rs. 1500 crore in Demand No. 12 of the Department of Telecommunications in BE 2001-2002 a "Grants to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for rural telecom network" to be netted against the receipt of Rs. 1500 crore from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited towards licence fee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has fixed that 5% of Licence Fee would go towards funding village phone services as Universal Service Obligation.

Poor performance of MTNL's mobile phone services

1819. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new mobile phone started by MTNL is not giving satisfactory service;

(b) how many connections have been given so far;

(c) what is the reason for poor service; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Dolphin Cellular Mobile Service started by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is giving good service in Delhi and Mumbai Metro area.

(b) A total of 33,184 mobile connections in Delhi and 43,000 in

Mumbai have been given so far since commissioning of Dolphin service in February, 2001.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps are being taken to further improve the system:

1. Network optimization is being carried out to further improve the coverage.
2. Project activities for provisioning of Cellular service in adjoining towns of Delhi viz. Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Noida and adjoining towns of Mumbai viz. Kalyan are being expedited.
3. Roaming facilities are being extended to all the places within the country as well as abroad.
4. Adequate number of Franchisees have been engaged to market the service an enhance customer base.
5. Special promotional marketing schemes are being introduced from time to time to improve customer base.
6. Aggressive marketing and focused media campaign has been under taken to popularise the Dolphin brand and improve the customer base.

Outstanding dues of BSNL

1820. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is outstanding and to be received from the defaulters;

(b) if so, the names of the defaulters and the amount defaulted;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.